

Fort Riley,
Building # 107
107 Reed Avenue
Fort Riley
Riley County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-L

HABS
KANS,
81-FORIL,
2-L-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS
KANS,
01-FDR14
2-L-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. KS-54-L

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 107

Location: 107 Reed Ave., Fort Riley, Riley County, Kansas; Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 14.692185.4326920

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: First Lieutenant Graney and family

Present Use: Single family officers quarters

Significance: Building # 107 at Fort Riley is the only existing frame structure on the post dating back to the 19th century. It was built in 1891 to house the hospital steward, and is located west of Summerall Hall, the old post hospital. Its square main block has a square rear wing built diagonally across the northeast corner. This unique design may reflect the combined efforts of Major Dallas Bache, Surgeon, and Quartermaster Capt. George E. Pond who together produced the plans. The small two-story single family residence stands out amongst the fort's larger rock-faced limestone buildings. Only its return box cornice and its limestone foundation link it to the other quarters on post. Even the old hospital contrasts with Building # 107. However there was an effort to associate the two structures by placing them "on the square in front of the hospital." (Junction City Union, Aug. 23, 1890). This suggests that at one time the old hospital's orientation may have been to the west rather than to the south as it is today. Also, Building # 107 may have been constructed only as a temporary quarters since a source refers to plans for a much more elaborate and expensive hospital steward's residence, which, for whatever reason, was not built. (Junction City Union, Aug. 23, 1890).

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Real Property Cards and the Engineer's Historical Record Book, both located at the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Riley and W.F. Pride (p. 211), give 1891 as the date of erection.
2. Architect: Not known. However, Capt. George E. Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley from 1885-1891, is listed as having prepared plans for the building under the direction of Major Dallas Bache, Surgeon, USA. Though the plans are for "repairs"

they are old and probably were drawn before Pond left Riley in 1891. Pond played a major role in the late nineteenth century reconstruction of the fort. He was sent to the post by officials in the Quartermaster General's Office at Washington in 1885 because all large building projects were handled by constructing quartermasters independent of all local commanders. (Junction City Union, March 19, 1966, Clipping File, Kansas State Historical Society). Besides supervising the construction of new buildings, Pond authored a post lay-out plan (1890) and accepted bids for building contracts. The versatile Pond designed the fort's water works, roads, sewage disposal system, and a steel bridge across the Republican River. (See "The Cavalry Post at Fort Riley," p. 118). Pond also made several trips to Washington, D.C. to present building plans to Congress, which accepted his designs. (See Junction City Union, Oct. 16, 1886, Feb. 5 & 26, June 4, Nov. 19, 1887, March 3 & 10, 1888, July 18, and Oct. 5, 1889).

3. Original and subsequent owners: Building # 107 has been owned by the Department of War, which since 1947 is known as the Department of the Army.
4. Builders, contractors suppliers: The materials used to construct Building # 107 probably came from local suppliers who played a vital role in the construction that took place at Fort Riley in 1889. The wood framing and the hardware were generally bought from local suppliers. The work was supervised by Quartermaster Pond, who was sent from Washington, D.C. specifically to organize and preside over the large-scale construction project. (Junction City Union, March 19, 1966.) The limestone for the foundation was undoubtedly quarried locally. (See "The Cavalry Post at Fort Riley," p. 128).
5. Original plans and construction: Original plans may be found in Record Group 92 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Old repair plans, possibly dating back to 1891, made under the direction of Major Dallas Bache, Surgeon USA by Capt. George E. Pond, Assistant Quartermaster are available at the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) at Fort Riley. These designs include front and side elevations and a full set of floor plans (see Supplemental Materials # 1 - # 4). Plans for the addition of wall dormers made in 1928 are also available at DEH (see Supplemental Materials # 5), and again include elevations and first and second story floor plans. The Engineer's Historical Record Book (DEH) includes a photograph of Building # 107 taken during the 1930's and gives \$1265.45 as the structure's original cost.
6. Alterations and additions: Building # 107 has had several major alterations and additions. Plans at DEH dated 1928 show the addition of a double window, wall dormer on both second story side

elevations which replaced a small gable end with a single window (See HABS photos # KS-54-L-4 & 5 and Supplemental Materials # 5). Also, sometime between 1891 and 1928 a front gable entry porch was added. The porch is not present on original plans but appears in the 1928 plans. Also, at some point the entrance from the living room to the bathroom was covered up along with all the downstairs fireplaces. The downstairs full bath was converted to a half bath. Upstairs a full bath was added to the north, right of the west bedroom. To make room, builders shortened the north bedroom. They also added closets to all of the second floor bedrooms, and a hall linen closet east of the south bedroom door. The dates of these changes are unknown. The original central chimney has been removed as well as all fireplaces. An exterior chimney, though not original, still exists in the rear wing.

B. Historical Context:

Building # 107 was constructed in 1891 during the expansion of Fort Riley after the post became a school for the training of cavalry and light artillery soldiers. The new quarters were all built of rock-faced ashlar limestone. They include the buildings on Forsyth, Sheridan, and Barry Avenues along with the brick structures on Lower Brick Row. The post hospital was also built during this period, and was made of rock-faced ashlar limestone. However, the hospital steward's home stands out because it was the only building of frame construction built during the post's expansion.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 107 is the only remaining frame structure dating from the 19th century left on post. The building's unique cottage-like design and diagonal rear addition suggest its special role as the house for the hospital steward. It was planned and built under the supervision of Capt. George E. Pond, Quartermaster, who was sent from Washington to oversee the large-scale improvement of the post. He worked with the post surgeon, Major Dallas Bach, and together they designed a frame structure with a unique rear wing (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-4). The small size of the structure, its low cost, and its balloon frame construction all suggest that it may have been built as a temporary residence. One source indicates that a more elaborate and expensive building was planned, but for whatever reason was never built. (See Junction City Union, August 23, 1890, p. 1) Old plans of the lay-out of the fort show the original steward's house as located at the post's southeast corner. It is possible

that the new hospital, built on the other side of the fort, necessitated the rapid construction of a new steward's house as well, on the later site.

2. Condition of the fabric: Building # 107 appears to be in excellent shape on the exterior. Its walls and roof are in good condition and its foundation is sound. On the interior, the walls and ceilings are in good condition also. There have been some major alterations however. Downstairs the fireplaces have been completely removed and closets have been built in west of the main hall. Upstairs, the master bedroom has been shortened and a full bath added to the north.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Building # 107 is a one and a half story single family residence. Its square main block (24' x 25') is two bays by three bays, and its rear addition (12' x 18') is one bay by two bays, and cuts diagonally across the main block's northeast corner. There is no basement, but a wall dormer with double windows has been added to either side elevation across the front-facing gable roof.
2. Foundation: The foundation is of rock-faced ashlar limestone about two courses high and sixteen inches thick, and rests on a squat base of unknown material and size. The foundation in the basement is extremely thick, maybe as thick as four feet.
3. Walls: The walls of Building # 107 are horizontal, overlapping, wooden siding. The gable ends of the facade and porch are covered with wooden shingles. All materials are smooth and have been painted (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-1).
4. Structural system and framing: Building # 107 has a balloon frame, with 2" x 4" wall and ceiling studs, and 2" x 6" ceiling beams. Floors rest on wooden joists (2" x 8"). In the basement there are two huge limestone piers that support a diagonal beam below the floor structure. Large limestone buttresses appear at the base of the walls.
5. Porches: The small, square front entry porch is frame with a tongue and groove floor, has three concrete steps, and rests on rock-faced limestone piers. It has a front-facing gable roof, with shingles in the gable end, and a plain cyma reversa return-box cornice with coursed exposed rafters and collar beams and a segmental, curved cut-away in the lower tympanum of the porch pediment. Between the cornice and the squared beveled corner posts are single, rounded, wooden, triangular brackets.

There are pilasters against the facade. The plain, squared, wooden balustrade is linked to two plain squared newel posts each with a squat, square newel cap (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-1).

6. Chimneys: There is an exterior, new brick chimney in the gable end of the rear wing, which used to service the kitchen but has since been blocked off (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-4). In addition, an old chimney located in the northeast corner of the main block has been removed.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front wooden door has four horizontal panels below a single, glass upper panel . It has plain, wide board framing and a simple architrave molding, with an old brass doorbell. The rear door has four lower wooden panels with four lights in the top portion.
 - b. Windows: Building # 107 has four over four sash windows all around with plain square board moldings. On the west side elevation, the south window is a smaller nine-light casement. There are double windows in the dormer on either side elevation. These windows are four over four sash with plain square board molding. In the rear wing there are nine-light casement windows with the same surrounds.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: Building # 107's porch, main block, and rear wing have low-pitched, front-facing gable roofs covered with composition shingles. The ridge of the main block runs north-south.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The main block of Building # 107 has a box cornice with pedimental returns on the gable ends. There is a plain fascia molding and at the corners there are cyma reversa brackets with a lower bead.
 - c. Dormers: At the center of both side elevations there is a hipped roof wall dormer with double windows and shingled side walls and roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor of the main block is divided into three rooms. An entrance hall with a two-flight stairway is to the west, to the north is the dining room, and to the east is the

living room (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-6). The living room opens into the dining room to the north of it. The second floor is reached via the main stairway that opens into a hall running east-west. To the north is one bedroom and behind it is a full bathroom that opens into the hall. To the south is another bedroom and the master bedroom is to the east. All second floor rooms have slanted ceilings following the slope of the roof. The basement is reached from a first floor stairway underneath the main stairway. Finally, Building # 107 has a full basement that follows the configuration of the house.

2. Stairways: The front, two-flight stairway is enclosed and runs from the downstairs hallway, left of the entrance, to the upstairs hall. It has plain, varnished pine steps and a rounded wooden handrail attached to the east wall. The plain baseboard molding continues up the stairs on the west wall. Above, there are two windows, one at the first landing, a nine-light casement, and the other is at the top of the stairs, a four over four sash window which is actually the south half of the west dormer. In the dining room located below the main stairway is a doorway downstairs to the basement. It is a wooden, four vertical panel door. The back stair is made of plain 2" x 4" boards and has a plain balustrade.
3. Flooring: New narrow pine board flooring exists throughout Building # 107. It is unpainted and finished with a clear varnish. In the bathrooms and kitchen is new, linoleum flooring. The basement has a cement floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings throughout are plastered and painted white, except for the basement which has rubble limestone walls. In the dining and living rooms there is picture molding about eight inches from the ceiling.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance has plain, flat wooden molding all around. The molding is about three inches wide with a rounded bull's eye pattern in the top corners. At the bottom there is an eight inch base with a molded piece above with two parallel grooves below a rounded top edge (See HABS photo # KS-54-L-6). All downstairs doorways are this same pattern except for the plain moldings around the kitchen doorway. All doors on the first floor have been removed. Upstairs, only the first two bedrooms have a bull's eye molding and a base molding around the doorways with vertical panel doors. The bathroom and master bedroom have plain flat moldings and new doors.

hospital, in a area reserved for administrative parking. Originally there may have been a small square that visually linked the hospital and the steward's house. Today, building # 107 is set back from the main thoroughfare and is barely visible amongst the large buildings that surround it (see Supplemental Materials # 6).

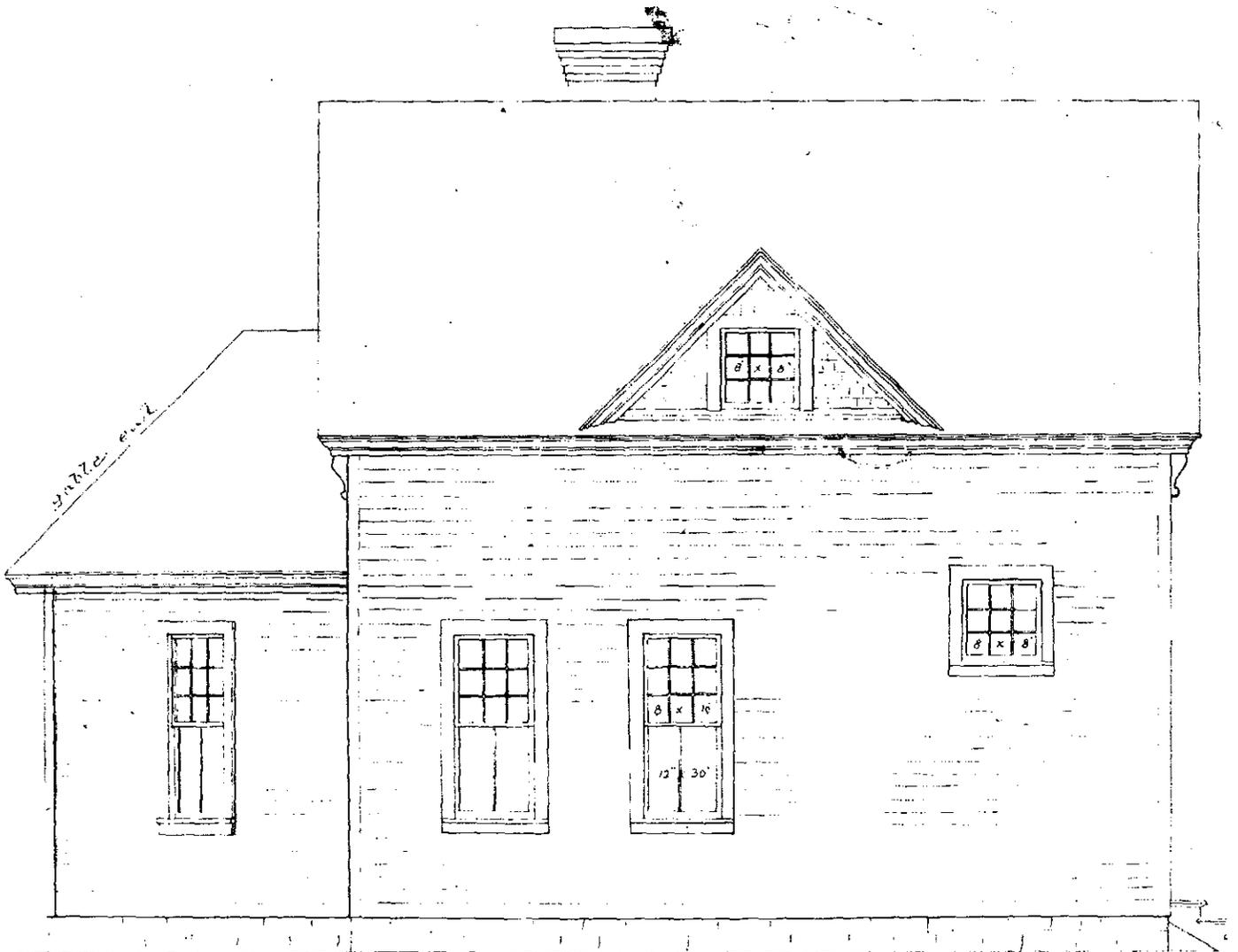
PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: See the description of drawings given in "Original Plans and Construction:" also see the 1890 plat map drawn by Capt. George E. Pond, Assistant Quartermaster located at the U.S. Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas.
- B. Early Views: See ca. 1930's photograph in the Engineer's Historic Record Book, DEH.
- C. Bibliography
 - 1. Primary sources:
 - a. Junction City Union, on microfilm at the Junction City Public Library and bound at the Geary County Museum, Junction City.
 - b. Plats and Plans, U.S. Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas.
 - 2. Secondary sources:
 - a. "The Cavalry Post at Fort Riley," The Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, Vol. 13 (1902-03), pp. 118-128.
 - b. Cyril M. Harris, ed. Historic Architecture Sourcebook, New York, 1977.
 - c. Engineer's Historical Record Book (DEH), Fort Riley, Kansas
 - d. W. F. Pride, The History of Fort Riley, 1926.

Prepared by:

Joseph Rodriguez
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1985

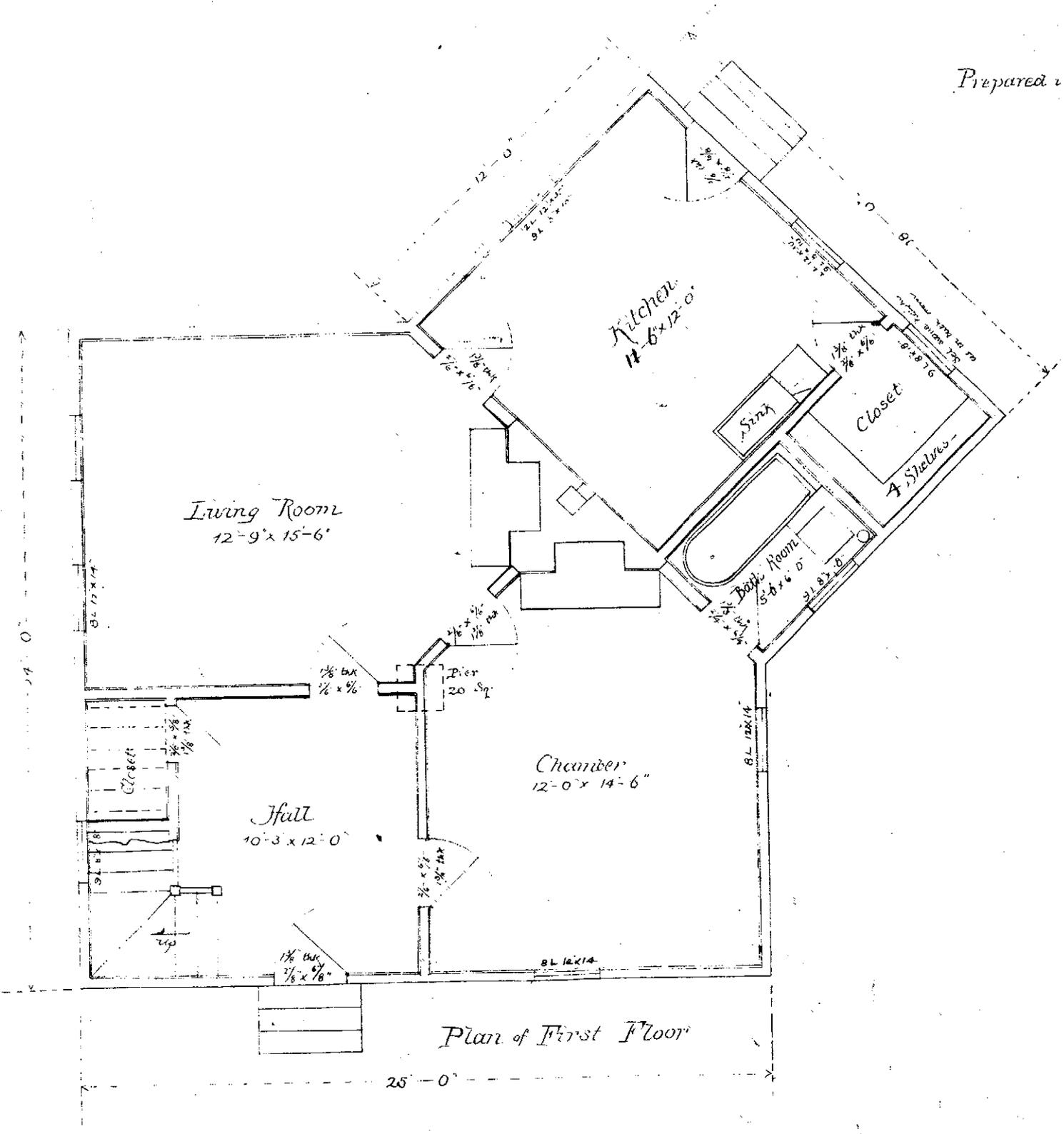
2. Side Elevation



Side Elevation

3. First Floor:

Prepared by



Plan of First Floor

4. Second Floor

to

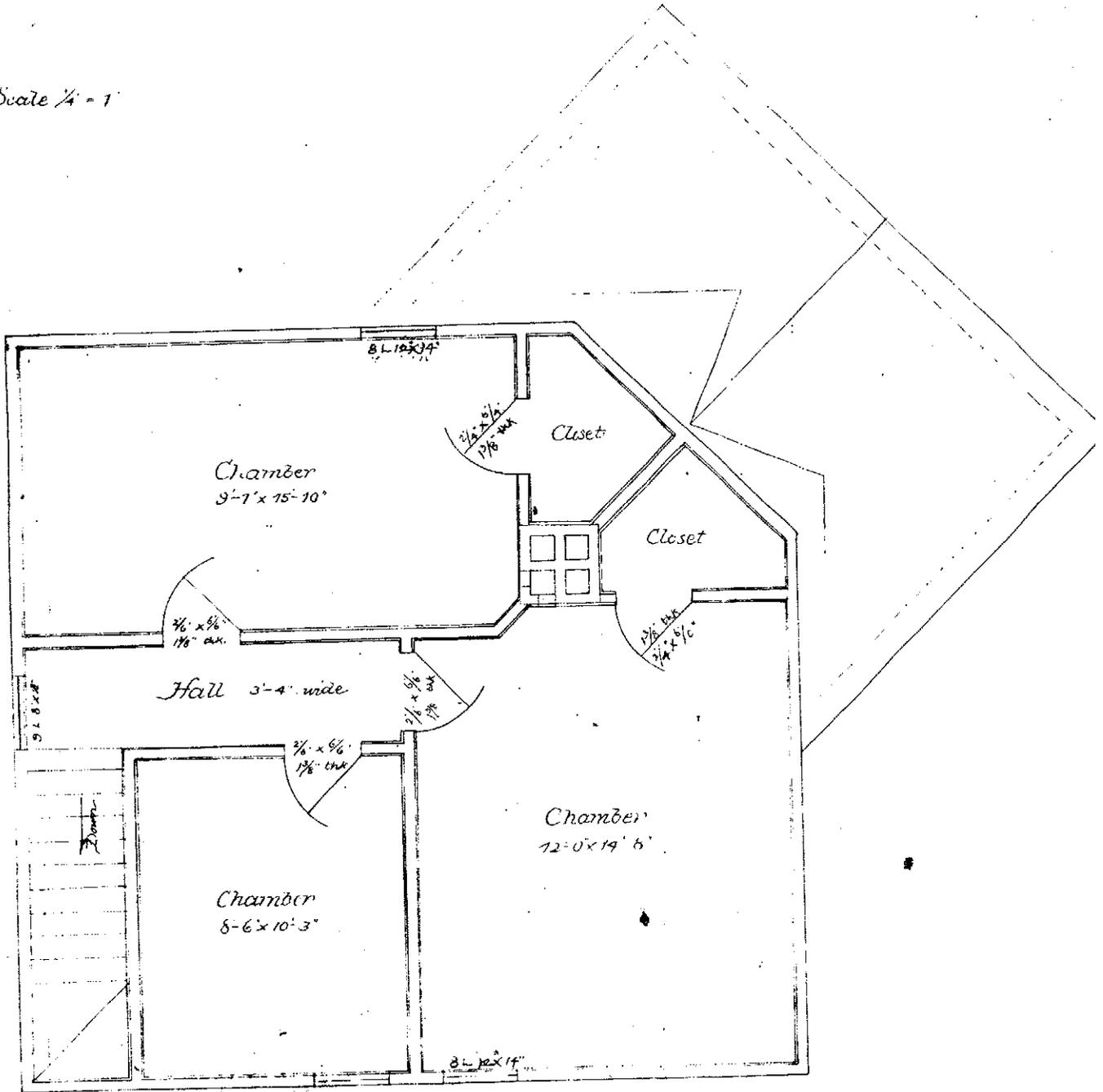
1st Steward

Kans.

Scale 1/4" = 1'

U.S.A.

F. Bond,
M. U.S.A.

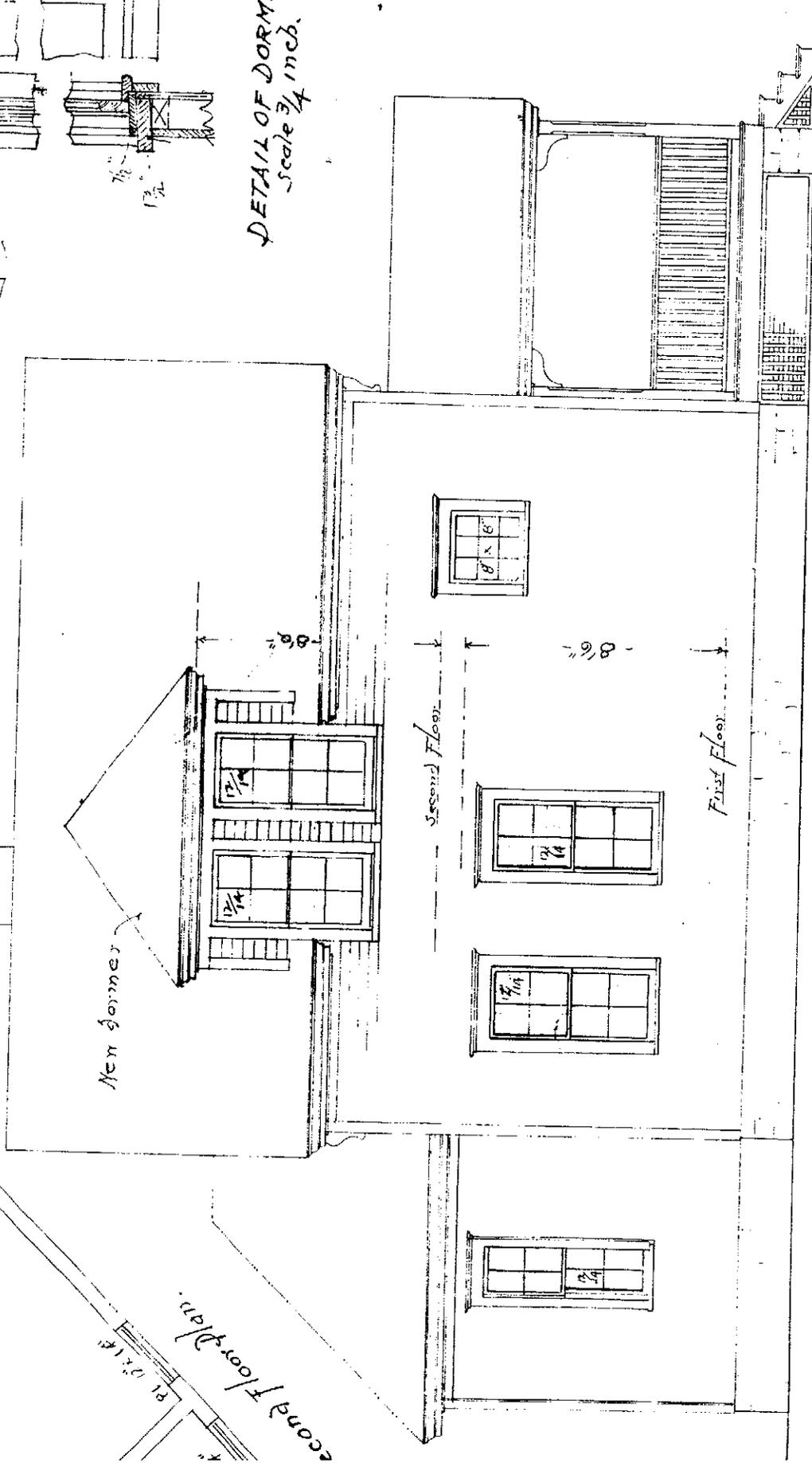
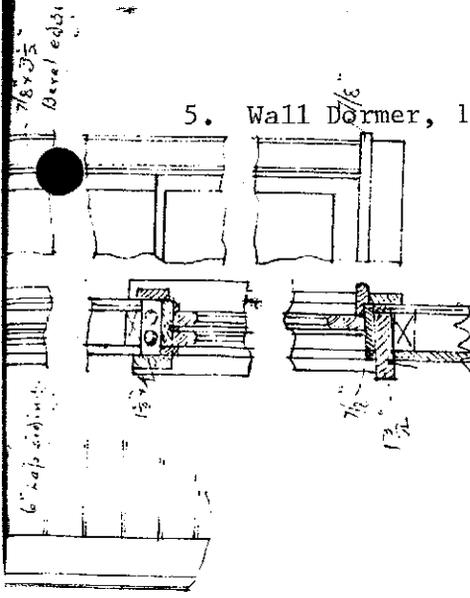


Plan of Second Floor.

Sheet - 3
U File A 12-7

5. Wall Dormer, 1928 addition

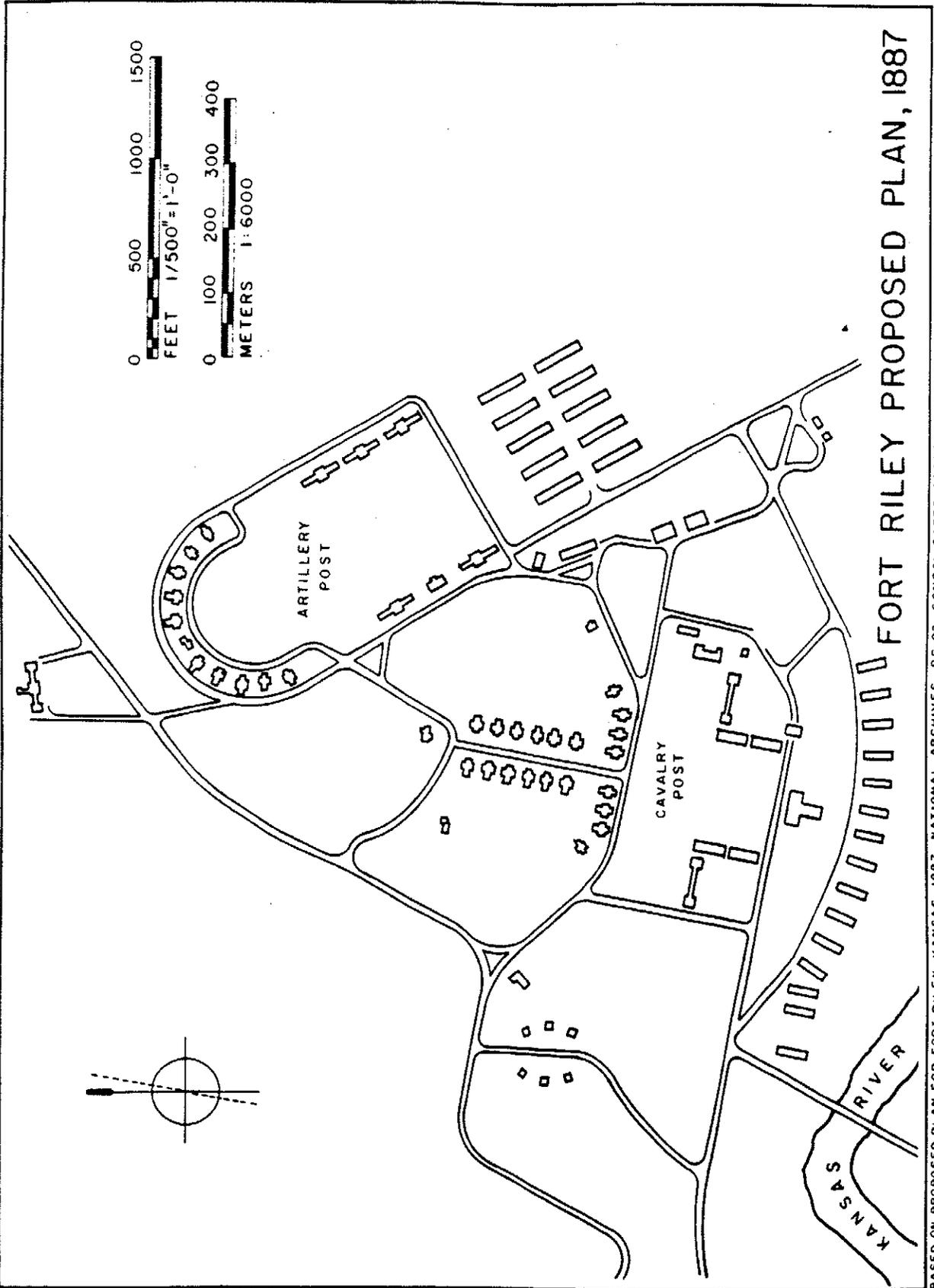
DETAIL OF DORMERS
Scale $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.



Assigned Officers Bldg. "107."

6. Fort Riley, Proposed Plan, 1887

PROPOSED PLAN, 1887 AND SITE PLAN, 1985



BASED ON PROPOSED PLAN FOR FORT RILEY, KANSAS, 1887. NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RG 92, CONSOLIDATED CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BOX 915

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander of Fort Riley, Kansas, and the headquarters of the United States Army Corps of the Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University). The project historians were Catherine Crawford (University of Maryland) and Joseph Rodriguez (University of California). Large format photography was conducted by Mike Whye. Documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Catherine Crawford.